

Appln. No.: 10/725,929
Amendment Dated: March 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of: December 31, 2007

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 21 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Murphy et al. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below. Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... wherein **a group of parameter information associated with one type of data is stored sequential to a group of parameter information associated with another type of data** by using a classification according to a type of data.

Basis for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 13, lines 15 to page 14, line 10 and Fig. 2.

Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes **different types of data** (i.e. audio type files, image type files and video type files). The groups of parameter information for the audio type files, image type files and video type files **are stored sequential to each other** at positions N, M and K, respectively. The **different types of data** and the groups of parameter information for the **different types of data stored sequential to each other** are described in the specification at page 13, lines 15 to page 14, line 10, which recite:

Here the contents list information file 16 according to the first embodiment of the present invention will be described further in detail by referring to FIG. 2 which is an explanatory diagram of a data storage format thereof.

The contents list information file 16 is comprised of a header portion 40, an audio file portion 41, an image file portion 42 and a video file portion 42.

The header portion 40 stores the numbers of the audio files, image files and video files belonging to the data file group 13 which are n, m and k pieces respectively. In addition, the header portion 40 stores starting positions (that is, the byte

numbers of offsets from file heads) of the audio file portion 41 comprised of n pieces of information on the audio files #1, ..., #n, the image file portion 42 comprised of m pieces of information on the image files #1, ..., #m, and the video file portion 43 comprised of k pieces of information on the video files #1, ..., #k, which are N bytes, M bytes and K bytes, respectively.

The audio file portion 41 is comprised of an audio parameter information storage portion 44 and an audio file name storage portion 45. (Emphasis Added)

Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes a parameter information file 16 (Fig. 2). The parameter information file 16 includes a header portion 40 and storage portions 44-49. The header portion 40 indicates a position where groups of parameter information are located in storage portions 44-49 for different types of data files (i.e. audio, image and video), as shown in Fig. 2. For example, as shown in Fig. 2, header portion 40 indicates a position N where a group of parameter information (i.e., parameter information for audio type files #1, ..., #n) is located for audio files in storage portion 44. Header portion 40 also indicates positions M and K where groups parameter information are located for image type files and video type files in storage portions 46 and 49, respectively.

The groups of parameter information for the audio type files, image type files and audio type files are stored sequential to each other at positions N, M and K, respectively, as shown at Fig. 2. Position N represents a recording position of the group of parameter information for the audio type files starting at N byte. Position M represents a recording position of the group of parameter information for the image type files starting at M byte. Position K represents a recording position of the group of parameter information for the video type files starting at K byte. The group of parameter information for the audio files are offset starting at position N (N byte) at storage portion 44, as shown in Fig. 2. The group of parameter information for the image type files are offset **sequential to** the audio at position M (M byte) at storage portion 46. The group of parameter information for the video files are offset **sequential to** the audio at position K (K byte) at storage portion 48. That is, Applicants' exemplary embodiment discloses "... **a group of parameter information associated with one type of data is stored sequential to a group of parameter**

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information associated with another type of data by using a classification according to a type of data," as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants' claimed features are advantageous over the prior art because a specific type of data file can be reproduced more quickly when the specific type of data file is selected. For example, if a video type file is selected, the groups of parameter information associated with the audio type files and the image type files may be skipped (not read) and the group of parameter information associated with video type file may be read by directly proceeding to the starting position offset at K (K byte).

The Examiner admits that Murphy does not disclose using a classification according to a type of data. However, the Examiner argues that Ohnuma discloses using a classification according to a type of data. (Office Action, page 6, lines 4-9).

A program in Ohnuma may be recorded from time 19:00 to time 20:00, as shown in Fig. 4A. Specific portions of the program, such as top news 111, economic news 112 and CM 13, are stored according to time (Fig. 4B). The specific portions (i.e. CM 13) can be extracted from the program using a time position 15:00 and a description CM, as shown at block 251 at Fig. 12. The Examiner argues CM to be a classification according to a type of data. (Office Action, page 6, lines 4-9). However, Ohnuma does not disclose "...**a group of parameter information associated with one type of data is stored sequential to a group of parameter information associated with another type of data** by using a classification according to a type of data," as recited in amended claim 1.

In contrast, Ohnuma discloses storing a **single** portion 111, 112, 113 within a predetermined time period (19:00-20:00), as shown in Fig. 4B. In Ohnuma, Economic News type data file 112 is stored before CM type data file 113. Although Ohnuma does not disclose another Economic News type data file to form a group, if another Economic News type data file was stored, the other Economic News type data file may be stored after CM type data file 113 because Ohnuma does not disclose storing types of data files **sequential to each other**. Thus, Ohnuma will not be able to access both the first and second Economic News type data files (the group) by skipping the other types of data files and directly proceeding to the starting position of the first Economic News type data file 112 because CM type data file 113 will be between the first

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Economic News type data file 112 and the second Economic News type data file. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 9-14, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 9-14 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 15-20 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

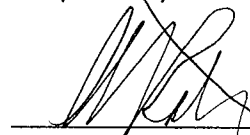
Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murphy and Komatsu. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-6 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 1.

Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murphy and Ohnuma. The rejection of claim 7 is moot due to the cancellation of this claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is allowable because it depends from allowable claim 1.

Claims 15-20 were amended to better conform with U.S. practice.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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